

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Council on Technology Services

From: The Honorable George C. Newstrom, Secretary of Technology

Date: February 6, 2003

Subject: Information Security Special Task

The *Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Technology* articulates several challenges and opportunities facing Virginia in the realm of information security. In addition to denial of service attacks, viruses and worms, hacking, and malicious corruption of code, the tragedies of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent war on terrorism requires the Commonwealth to be prepared to prevent, respond to, and recover from incidents impacting technology infrastructure and services. The Strategic Plan calls for implementing a statewide security program, to be housed in the proposed Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA).

As a member of the Governor's Secure Virginia Panel, I have worked closely with the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness and other members of the Panel in developing contingency plans and operational procedures that address a wide range of emergency situations. Based on my work on the Secure Virginia Initiative and the likelihood of war in the Middle East, Virginia cannot afford to wait any longer to develop contingency plans and procedures related to technology infrastructure/services and cyber incidents.

As such, I am tasking the COTS to take on this important process, through the COTS Security Workgroup and in tandem with the Technology Sub-Panel of the Secure Virginia Panel. The attached tasking sheet outlines the approach and major deliverables, and emphasizes the urgency and speed with which this task needs to be completed. I am impressed with the expertise, cooperation, and wide-ranging involvement from state government agencies, higher education institutions, and local government that characterizes the work of the COTS and its Workgroups.

I am fully confident in the COTS' ability to complete this task in an expedited fashion to ensure Virginia is prepared for cyber incidents. I apologize that a speaking engagement with the Governor prevents me from dispatching this important assignment to the COTS Executive Committee in person. I thank you for your hard work, successful collaboration, and dedication and service to the COTS. I am particularly grateful to you, as volunteers, for sharing your precious time and resources for the good of the Commonwealth.